



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
SLAVIC, GERMAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES

THE SGES NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Chair's Corner</i>	5
<i>Message from the Director of Graduate Studies</i>	6
<i>Message from the Director of Undergraduate Studies</i>	7
<i>Summer Language Institute in Holzkirchen</i>	9
<i>Meet Detlev Weber, lecturer in German Studies</i>	12
<i>Updates from the Max Kade Center</i>	16
<i>A Ukrainian November at KU!</i>	18
<i>Faculty News</i>	22
<i>Giving to the Department and Center</i>	25

This edition of the SGES Newsletter was edited by Dr. Marike Janzen. Design by Wyatt Haywood.

CHAIR'S CORNER

by Nina Vyatkina



Dear Colleagues, Students,
and Friends of the
Department,

As we approach the end
of the year, I'd like to take
a moment to introduce
myself and reflect on some
recent developments in
the Department of Slavic,

German, and Eurasian Studies (SGES). My name is Professor Nina Vyatkina, and I have been serving as Interim Chair of SGES since August 1, 2024. I took on this role following the departure of Professor Ani Kokobobo, who left KU to become Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. We are deeply grateful to Ani for her many years of leadership, and we wish her all the best in her new professional endeavors.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our outstanding administrative associate Wyatt Haywood, director of undergraduate studies Ari Linden, director of graduate studies Oleksandra Wallo, Director of the Max Kade Center (MKC) for German-American Studies Marike Janzen, and all of our faculty and staff for their support and dedication during this leadership transition. Their efforts have made this process smooth and seamless. I am eager to build on the department's existing strengths to continue serving our students and advancing KU's mission in education, research, and service.

This academic year, we are thrilled to see growth in the number of students majoring and minoring in the diverse concentrations we offer, as well as increasing enrollments in our courses. Our faculty members and instructors have continued to conduct high-quality research while maintaining their exemplary commitment to teaching and service. Their productivity and enthusiasm are truly inspiring.

We also welcomed two new faculty members this fall: Biljana Konatar and Detlev Weber. Biljana has already enriched our offerings in Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian languages as well as Slavic Studies, while Detlev has contributed to German language instruction and German Studies. Both have brought fresh perspectives and energy to our teaching, outreach, and community building, and we are excited about the positive impact they will continue to make.

This fall has been a vibrant period for SGES and the Max Kade Center, with numerous events and public lectures that have engaged both the university and the broader community. One highlight was the visit of Ukraine's United Nations Ambassador to KU, organized by Oleksandra Wallo with support from multiple KU units. The visit culminated in a presentation at the Dole Institute, which drew over 150 attendees. This event not only demonstrated our community's solidarity with Ukraine but also opened new opportunities for KU, including potential United Nations internships for students. Please read more about this and other exciting events in this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our donors. Your generous support enables us to provide exceptional opportunities for our students and to continue growing our programs. It is because of your contributions that we can achieve so much, and we are immensely thankful for your commitment to SGES.

Wishing all of you a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Vyatkina', written in a cursive style.

Professor Nina Vyatkina
Interim Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

by Oleksandra Wallo



For the Slavic graduate program, this fall has proved to be rich in conference activity: several graduate students presented academic papers at regional, national, and international conferences.

PhD student Marta Kapszewicz gave a paper on the representations

of Kyiv in Polish literature at the Central Slavic Conference at Saint Louis University. Masha Shishmareva and Murad Jalilov participated in the ASEES Convention in Boston and presented their work on the same panel that featured distinguished Ukrainian Studies professors as chair and discussant. Masha's paper was titled "Somov's 'The Witches of Kyiv' as an inspiration for Gogol's 'A Terrible Vengeance,'" and Murad gave a presentation titled "Chasing Two Villains in the Film *Chasing Two Hares*." PhD student Andriyana Baran presented her research at two conferences this fall. She gave a virtual presentation "Advantages, Challenges, and Classroom Insights on Data-Driven Learning for Less Commonly Taught Languages" at the Symposium on Language Pedagogy in Higher Education (SOLPHE), organized by the Ohio State University. She also flew to Barcelona, Spain, to co-present with colleagues on their group project, "Aligning the Ukrainian Language Proficiency Assessment with CEFR: Challenges and Solutions," at a conference at Ramon Llull University.

Slavic graduate students Andriyana Baran and Oksana Vykhopen, together with the Fulbright foreign language teaching assistant from Ukraine, Nataliia Kasianchuk, at the Ukrainian Student Association's Varenyky Workshop.

Closer to home, PhD student Kamila Saifeeva gave a guest lecture "(Sure) Go Ahead, (But): Levels of Approval in Russian Imperatives" in Dr. Dickey's SLAV 522/722 course on the grammatical categories of Russian. Also, Kamila's article "[Syntactic feminities in Russian: a case study of an online Russian language radical feminist group](#)" was published this year in *Russian Linguistics*.

In terms of program milestones, the fall semester began with Masha Shishmareva successfully passing her MA/PhD Qualifying Exam and entering the PhD program. After some time away from KU, MA student Trena Tackitt returned this fall to take her Terminal MA Exam. She succeeded and is graduating with an MA in Slavic Languages and Literatures this December. Congratulations to both Masha and Trena! Finally, this fall the Slavic graduate program welcomed two new MA students, Landon Nett and Ryan Russell.

Besides studying, doing research, and teaching, our graduate students have also found time this semester to build community and reach out to students from other units. Oksana Vykhopen collaborated with several other students from Ukraine to establish the Ukrainian Student Association at KU. One of the Association's most fun events this fall was a well-attended workshop on making Ukrainian *varenyky*, which took place at the Max Kade Center in December.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

by Ari Linden



Fall 2024 has been another eventful semester in our department. In October, we organized an Undergraduate Luncheon and Alumni Panel, in which recent graduates from our program (as well as from German Studies and Slavic Studies, prior to the merger) spoke about the ways in which their

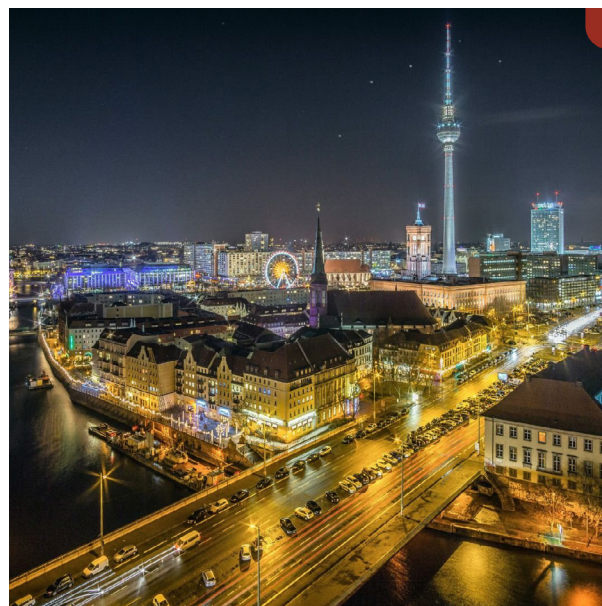
respective degrees have played a role in their post-KU professional and/or academic lives. Ana Cristina Potoret, Natalie Miller, Arik Toler, Lauren Cassidy, Jenny Kornfeld, and Nicole Klevanskaya all spoke (in person or over Zoom) in very specific and helpful ways to current students in our program, taking questions from the audience. Later that month, students, faculty, and community members gathered at the Max Kade Center for our second annual Fall Fest/Herbstfest. By all measures, both events were great successes.

Our enrollment numbers were excellent this semester and we've gained 13 more majors since last fall! With respect to the German side of things, this might have to do with the recent changes made to our German Studies concentration and minor, which are now significantly more flexible and accommodating. We are also currently in the process of streamlining our Slavic and Eurasian Studies minors, which should hopefully create more parity across the

department and more visibility for our various language and culture tracks.

Students who are concentrating or minoring in REES, German, or any of the Slavic or Eurasian languages, or considering a concentration, should feel encouraged to contact me at ari.linden@ku.edu to set up an advising appointment; I will also hold regular office hours in the spring. Meetings can be focused on specific questions related to our department, curriculum, scholarship opportunities, your path to degree, or study abroad opportunities, or we can simply have an informal session just to check in and catch up on life at KU.

As a reminder: we not only offer a wide range of languages and cultures to choose from; we can also boast of world-class expertise among our faculty in German, the many languages, literatures, cultures, and linguistics of the Slavic family (Russian, Polish, Czech, Ukrainian, and Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian), and Turkish, Persian, and Yiddish. Our Capstone experience in German and Slavic—to be taught for the first time in the spring as one class (GERM/SLAV 580)—gives students the opportunity to work closely with a faculty member in designing an individualized research project. I encourage students to read our faculty pages and the descriptions of our course offerings to get a better sense of what areas and topics they might pursue.



GERM 118/318

LIVING AND WORKING IN GERMANY: CULTURE & LANGUAGE SURVIVAL GUIDE

MW | 12:30 - 1:45pm | Dr. Ljudmila Bilkić

This course has an emphasis on cross-cultural understanding as part of preparation to live, study, and/or work in Germany or the European Union, in general. As part of a comprehensive and transdisciplinary survey of Germany's past 150 years, students will examine and synthesize key cultural, historical, and socio-political elements that have shaped the country's habits, values, and lifestyles. Themes that will be discussed include urban life, taboos, family planning, the job market, popular movies, sports, Germany's role in the EU, energy concerns, cuisine, import/export of goods, and slang.

118 for those with no prior knowledge of German; 318 has select readings and assignments in German.



KU'S 2024 SUMMER LANGUAGE INSTITUTE IN HOLZKIRCHEN!

by Andrea Meyertholen

At the beginning of June, twelve highly engaged students from KU and the University of Arkansas brought good humor and positive attitudes to Germany. We first embarked on a two-week trip to visit Berlin and Nuremberg, before heading down to Bavaria for our homestay in Holzkirchen. We were warmly and ceremoniously welcomed to the city by the presidents of the *Freunde der Universität Kansas* in Holzkirchen, Lisa and Albert Schlegl, the mayor of Holzkirchen, Christoph Schmid, the students' host families, and a marching band. During our next five weeks, I met with our eight wonderful students daily to watch German films, review German grammar, discuss current events, and read German fairy tales. Some evenings we took part in traditional town cultural events, such as at the local *Trachtenverein*, a society dedicated to the preservation of traditional dress and dance. After learning the intricacies (and prices!) of *Dirndl* and *Lederhosen*, students took to the stage to learn the choreography of knee-slaps and pirouettes typical of traditional Bavarian dance.



On Mondays we took learning out of the classroom as we visited cultural sites set in the surrounding countryside. In Salzburg we had a musical tour through the “Mozartstadt”, which also included some familiar facades from *The Sound of Music*. We hiked around the Tegernsee, dodged flying birds of prey in a falconry show, and rode a riverboat down the Danube to visit a very artistic brewery. We headed into the German and Austrian Alps, first to visit the other two castles built by King Ludwig II, Neuschwanstein and Linderhof; and then to reach the Eagle’s Nest in Berchtesgaden. After ascending the Alpine heights of Berchtesgaden, we descended into the nearby salt mines where we rode no less than two trains, two slides, and an ambient boat ride over an underground salt lake with a light show choreographed to new-age music.

The summer ended bittersweetly, as it always does, with a tear-filled farewell from our hosts and host family. We were feted in style during this past summer’s farewell party, for which the students and I also provided the entertainment. Besides compiling and scoring a greatest-hits slide show for the host parents, the students performed original fairy-tale mash-up theater pieces (in German of course!) while I played a Mozart flute concerto. Although these amazing events and the wonderful students of this past summer will be tough to top, plans for the 2025 SLI in Holzkirchen are already underway as we look forward to introducing a group of new faces to meet old friends in our Bavarian home away from home.





MEET DETLEV WEBER

LECTURER GERMAN STUDIES



Tell us a bit about where you are from, how you came to the states (if you are willing to share), and your career trajectory.

I come from a German-speaking South African family. So, I was born and raised in South Africa and after school I wanted to work with language. I wanted to read literature and write about literature, but I also wanted to engage with linguistics and teach the language. For all of this, German Studies was a logical choice. Further, the American system offering TA-ships was ideal for me after my BA because it allowed me to continue with my MA while receiving

financial support and gaining teaching experience. This was at the University of Missouri, Columbia. While there, I worked on connecting second language acquisition (SLA) and literature, amongst other things. However, once I started my PhD at the University of Washington, Seattle in 2019, I realized that I want to dedicate myself to studying medieval German literature, which is what my dissertation is about.

Why do you work in this field? What are some of your academic and teaching interests?

Scholarship in language studies was a calling for me. Critical thinking and diving into the depths of what stories are told, how, and why, is a sincere passion of mine. I want to understand people better and explore the reflections of humanity that literature provides. For this reason, again, German Studies was an obvious choice, and specifically, literature as a culmination of language, philosophy, history, and sociology, is the field in which I can reach the furthest into finding knowledge that is worth finding for me.

My research focuses on the later Middle Ages. It's a time when literary texts from the German language family started showing up more and this provides insights into the material that is foundational to the German culture today. I am interested in investigating the time and significance of medieval texts and I particularly enjoy looking into the fantastic and magical aspects that are represented in those texts. Not to mention that it feels like I am a wizard sitting in a tower reading texts that most people find unapproachable because they are too old and written in, for many, mysterious language, like Middle High German, or an Alsatian dialect. Researching medieval texts is an act of exploration which is similar to

learning a new language. In this sense, I am a language learner myself, and teaching German is not entirely separate from my work as a researcher.

What attracted you to or excited you about working with the KU Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies?

With relation to the previous question and answer, the opportunity to teach a course named “Magic, Murder, Monsters” was uncannily attractive. Of course, it was also the kind and free learning environment that the SGES department offers, as well as the friendly colleagues and staff. It means a lot when you can pursue your interests and can count on the support of the people around you. Reflecting on the now completed first semester, I also found the students to be exceptionally engaged and enriching to work with. On a lighter note, Kansas is the most central state of the US and so, geographically, there is sure to be the deepest cache of cultural knowledge to be found here.

Most importantly to me, KU offered me the opportunity to work in the same place as my life partner which in our line of work just isn’t guaranteed anymore – for this I will always be very grateful.

What are some plans for the future? Do you have research projects that you are working on or about to start? Is there a course that you are hoping to develop? Plans for outreach for your language program?

Right now, I am focusing on finishing my dissertation. I am planning to defend this spring and there is a very clear light at the end of this tunnel (maybe a little ominous because this light is literally a deadline - pun intended).

I am also planning to visit the Premodern German Studies Symposium at Stanford University in the end of March to talk about my dissertation topic. This should be highly beneficial, especially with regard to receiving valuable feedback and setting up future plans for the project.

Besides that, I am working with CODL to develop a German 104 asynchronous course for the summer for which I am very excited. Course designing is very fun for me because it gives me the opportunity to look at the bigger picture of what students can take out of the course, and I get to be creative about how to make that happen.

When it comes to outreach, I had the privilege of leading the German Table this last semester and it was an amazing group of students who came together once a week and talked primarily German and discussed different German cultural topics. I want to make more of an effort to continue, maintain, and grow this club (and we are working on making this an official and registered club with the University).

Why do you think students should pursue German/Slavic Studies? What cultural and/or professional horizons does the language/field open up for students?

The skill set you acquire from a degree in the humanities provides you with the tools to work in multiple environments, with all kinds of people, and in very different capacities. What you are good at and what speaks to you professionally will then draw you toward positions that are a good fit for you. Attaining a degree in German Studies (or the Humanities at large) teaches you to recognize yourself, what you

want, and how to attain it. I am not describing an easy one-degree-fits-all-needs scenario, I am trying to explain (very briefly) how the humanities (specifically Language, and in my case German Studies) are a complex field that (given the will and effort) provide individually significant and meaningful outcomes.

Nowadays, you can hear that some scold the humanities for not offering clear career paths, which is simply untrue. These people do not recognize (or want to obscure) how socially necessary the field of humanities is because it teaches the truth about ourselves – and many people would just prefer to never learn this about themselves, and, unfortunately, they even want to prevent others from engaging with such questions because it is complicated and in many cases uncomfortable.

German Studies still offer incredible opportunities to find a profession and upscale your CV. This is not to undermine, or to ignore the economic hardships that are frequently involved with choosing a field in the Humanities to begin your career with. Salaries, work conditions, and what positions are actually available (in contrast or comparison to your intended goals) are huge deals that you do need to consider throughout your educational journey. However, for the more goal orientated students, and for the ones who want clearer maps to navigate the professional trajectory with a degree in German Studies, there are some good career paths that can lead to teaching positions (German, German SLA, or any subject in German), writing positions (academic, but also going into other sectors like journalism, publishing, or entertainment – it is a huge boon if you have at least a second culture

to influence your writing), international relations (whether working as an ambassador in an embassy, or in administration with international students, it is crucial that you can relate to the language and culture you are working with, or at least have experience in engaging critically with other cultures), political positions (any international cooperations e.g. the UN require you to know other languages and cultures; the U.S. is also a highly diverse country and political leaders need to be educated in a culturally diverse sense to lead and guide wisely). Many of my colleagues have joined tech companies, they are team managers, translators, and data analysts. All of these positions are related to their acquired knowledge in German Studies, and they represent leadership roles that require you to take initiative, to think well and critically, to consider your impact on others and allow others to have a greater impact in turn.

On a more personal note: Is there something about Lawrence or KU that you've come to love (outside of our department, of course)? Any hidden gems that you have found so far?

I am a member of the Bales Choral Society, and I sing in that choir which was only established at the beginning of last semester. I was very happy that I got to participate. It's a lovely community. We performed the first part of Händel's Messiah in December, and we did well too. I love music and being part of an ensemble, orchestra, or choir is a way for me to find the sublime in this world which is an important space to have.

Look out next semester for an interview with Biljana Konatar, multi-term lecturer for Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian

SLAV 379/679

Survival Tajik

An online course aimed at developing basic Tajik language skills for survival purposes. The course begins with the alphabet and builds the learners' abilities to carry out day-to-day tasks such as shopping, making reservations, and traveling in Tajik. The objective is to enable learners to satisfy simple and immediate needs by the end of the course.



Razi Ahmad
r.ahmad@ku.edu

ONLINE

SLAV 250/AAAS 250/GERM 240/LING 250/SPAN 202

Introduction to Translation and Translation Theory

Tues. & Thurs. 1:00 - 2:15 pm
Wescoe 4047
Get in Touch! Stephen M. Dickey
smd@ku.edu



Guest lecture by eminent classical translator Dr. Stanelly Lombardo

Are you interested in learning about what translators do?



Do you want to know about translation methodology and practice?

Are you curious about different theories of translation?

No prerequisite except 1 year of any foreign language
This course satisfies Global Culture and Goal 3 Arts and Humanities (GE3H)

SLAV 303 | Spring 2025

BODIES IN PAIN

in Contemporary Central and Eastern European Literature

Asynchronous Online | Jan 21 - Mar 14

How do people make sense of pain and illness? What is the relation between physical and emotional suffering? How does one communicate pain and how does one perceive the pain of others? How do experiences of pain and illness shape one's sense of self? Does suffering bring us together or set us apart? How can the medical profession benefit from the study of literature?

In this course we will read and discuss a variety of contemporary literary works by Central and Eastern European writers in an attempt to understand pain as a human experience. Focusing on a wide range of pain representations, we will examine how the historical, cultural, and social context adds additional layers of meaning to this universal sensation.

Get In Touch

Dr. Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozova | svk@ku.edu



UPDATES FROM THE MAX KADE CENTER FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

by Marike Janzen



People gather on the back lawn of the Sudler house for the Herbstfest open house

Greetings from the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies! This past fall we once again enjoyed hosting numerous guests at the Sudler House and Annex for a wide variety of events.

In September, Hazlett Henderson, PhD student in KU's department of Geography, spoke about the work she undertook as a summer intern at the Max Kade Center to digitize the ledgers of the New York Turn Verein (1850-2005). The center houses the physical copies of the ledgers, which have also been digitally scanned. Hazlett spent the summer creating a digital resource of the ledgers that are publicly available via our new collections site: maxkadecollections.ku.edu/s/maxkade. We are grateful to Hazlett for helping make this significant collection accessible for researchers around the world.

As a way to help place the New York Turn Verein archives within a larger context, and to understand how the papers held at the center connect with local Turner history (such as the Turn Halle in Lawrence, KS), we invited Devin O'Shea, free-lance journalist and author based in St. Louis, to give a talk on "German-Americans in the Revolutionary Midwest: Turner Halls." Devin is the author of "Socialist Gym Rats Fought to End Slavery in America," (*Jacobin*, August 2023).

Also in the fall, the center partnered with KU's Museum Studies program to bring H. Glenn Penny, Henry J. Bruman Chair in German History at the University of California, Los Angeles, one of the foremost researchers on German-speaking people in the Americas, to Lawrence. He gave two very well-





Journalist Devin O'Shea presents a talk on Turner Halls in the Midwest at the Max Kade Center

Planning is underway for the spring! Please mark your calendars for the following events:

attended talks: “Decolonizing European Museums: There is more at stake than you think ...” and “Globalizing German-Speaking Valdivia, Chile.”

We were also pleased to open the center to various campus and community groups. In October, the Kansas Association Teachers of German held their annual “Deutsches Wochenende” (German Weekend) in the Sudler House. The gathering allows teachers of German in Kansas to network and share ideas for curricular development. In November, we led a move-learn tour of the center and displayed collections highlights as part KU Employee Wellness program.

Student intern Hannah Kaiser organized two events that drew students, staff, and faculty together to enjoy typical German treats and activities. In October, we held a “Herbstfest” in the center’s backyard with apple cider and pretzels, as well as lawn games. In December, we invited people to come and make advent wreaths and enjoy typical German Christmas treats like Lebkuchen and Stollen.

Join the Max Kade Center email list to stay up to date with events, collections updates, and other news!



Linda Kinstler, “Come to this Court and Cry: How the Holocaust Ends,” Max Kade Center, 4 pm, February 6, 2025. Kinstler is a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows, and author of the prize-winning book *Come to this Court and Cry: How the Holocaust Ends* (Public Affairs 2022). In *Come to this Court*, Kinstler explores her grandfather’s connection to Herberts Cukus, a Latvian pilot who collaborated with the SS during World War II. While a reflection on her own story, the book examines larger themes of how archives and courts can either reveal or conceal historical truths.

Maya Gurantz, “The Sunworshippers,” Max Kade Center, 4 pm, February 26, 2025. Gurantz is an artist based in Los Angeles, California, and currently a Simons Humanities Fellow at KU’s Hall Center for the Humanities. Her presentation will focus on Mazdaznan, an early 20th century sun-worshipping cult founded by the Rev. Dr. Otoman Zar Adusht Ha’nish (born Otto Hanisch). At its peak, it filled dozens of temples with thousands of followers worldwide. It popularized proto-yogic breathing and physical exercises and disseminated vegetarianism with a bestselling cookbook. Mazdaznan forever transformed the Bauhaus School and the emergent radical right in California. Carl Jung and Upton Sinclair wrote about Mazdaznan. It remains a secret prototype for more famous cults that followed—from Scientology to NXIVM. It then vanished into thin air.

A UKRAINIAN NOVEMBER AT KU!

by Oleksandra Wallo

In the month of November, the Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies hosted or co-hosted four esteemed Ukrainian guests and organized a series of events with them.

On November 10-13, we had the honor of hosting Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations His Excellency Mr. Serhiy Kyslytsya. The initial connection with the Ambassador was made through a student in my

online intermediate Ukrainian course, who found out that Ambassador Kyslytsya had studied at KU as an exchange student over thirty years ago. We invited the Ambassador to return to KU on a visit, and he happily accepted our invitation. The visit was co-organized by SGES and the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, and co-sponsored by KU International Affairs, the Dole Institute of Politics, and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.



Fulbright foreign language teaching assistant Nataliia Kasianchuk watches Ambassador Kyslytsya speak to a crowd that overflowed the Simons Media Room at the Dole Institute of Politics.



Julie Murray, Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer, Ambassador Serhiy Kyslytsya, Prof. Erik Scott, Charlie Bankart, Yaroslava Sochka, and Prof. Oleksandra Wallo pose for a photo at dinner

During their time at KU, the Ambassador and his secretary Yaroslava Sochka had several productive meetings with the university administration, including a dinner with KU Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Barbara Bichelmeyer, Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives Julie Murray, and Senior Internationalization Officer Charlie Bankart, and a meeting with Executive Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Arash Mafi. The Ambassador also attended the Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Campanile WWII Memorial, was interviewed by the KU Alumni Association and the local press, received a tour of the Ukrainian language collections at Watson Library, and had an informal lunch with SGES graduate students and scholars from Ukraine.

On November 12 at the Dole Institute of Politics, the Ambassador gave a public presentation on his diplomatic career and role at the United Nations, especially during Russia’s war against Ukraine, and answered numerous questions from a large and enthusiastic audience. This event was attended by more than 150 people and proved to be very meaningful to many attendees with whom I spoke afterwards.

That day, the Ambassador was joined by Dora Chomiak, CEO of the non-profit organization RAZOM for Ukraine. Since the beginning of Russia’s full-scale



Prof. Oleksandra Wallo, Ambassador Serhiy Kyslytsya, Nataliia Kasianchuk, and Andriyana Baran pose for a photo at the Dole Institute.

war against Ukraine, RAZOM has delivered over \$116M of support to Ukraine and now has a full-time team working in both Ukraine and the United States, as well as an extensive network of volunteers. Chomiak flew in from New York City to give a CREES Brownbag presentation about the activity of RAZOM, “Cultivating Resilience: From the Frontline to Academia.” This excellent presentation was attended by the Ambassador, as well as many members of the KU and Lawrence communities.

Finally, on November 18-21, SGES hosted Ukrainian poet, prose writer, translator, and scholar Dr. Halyna Kruk. Dr. Kruk visited KU as part of her US tour promoting and reading from two recent collections of poetry that appeared in English translation, *Lost in Living* and *A Crash Course in Molotov Cocktails*.

On November 18, SGES organized “Poetry in a Time of War: An Evening with Ukrainian Poet Halyna Kruk,” where Dr. Kruk read and commented on the Ukrainian originals of her poems, and I had the honor of reading the poems’ English translations. Dr. RB Perelmutter, who had earlier translated two of Kruk’s poems into English, also joined in the poetry reading. It was a moving event that took place on the eve of the 1,000th day of Russia’s full-scale war against Ukraine.

The following day, our PhD student Andriyana Baran and I took Halyna Kruk on a day trip to Kansas City, and on November 20, Dr. Kruk gave a guest lecture in my UKRA 504: Advanced Ukrainian course. This class was attended by several other graduate students from SGES and gave the students the unique opportunity to discuss a short story by Kruk in Ukrainian and with the author herself.

It was an exciting Ukrainian November at KU!

Above: Dora Chomiak, CEO of the non-profit organization RAZOM for Ukraine, presents about the work they do.

Below: Prof. RB Perelmutter, Dr. Halyna Kruk, and Prof. Oleksandra Wallo pose after their poetry reading



FACULTY UPDATES



Vitaly Chernetsky had a very busy 2024, as this was the year he served as President of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), the first KU faculty member to serve in this role in the association's 76-year-long history. The ASEEES annual convention was held in Boston in

November; Prof. Chernetsky chose this year's theme, "Liberation," and delivered the presidential address, which will be published next year. In the second half of this year, he held the URIS research fellowship at the University of Basel in Switzerland. During this time, in addition to his research on displaced Ukrainian authors past and present, he also delivered numerous guest lectures at universities in Switzerland, Germany, Italy, and Poland, and the keynote address at the conference *Societies on the Move: Migration, Mobility, and Displacement in Eastern Europe* in Ascona. The book of poetry by Ostap Slyvynsky, *Winter King*, which he co-translated with Iryna Shuvalova, won the AAUS Translation Prize and was shortlisted for the Derek Walcott Prize and the National Translation Award (administered by ALTA). Among his new publications were the article "Confronting Epistemic Injustice: Centering Ukraine in the Paradigm Shift in East European Studies," published in open access by Södertörn University in Sweden, the chapter "Empire" in the *New Cambridge History of Russian Literature and Woodsman*, a trilingual (Ukrainian, English, and Polish) book by Yuri Andrukhovych for which he provided the English translation.

Stephen M. Dickey published two journal articles, "Russian Aspect from a Cognitive Linguistics Perspective" (*Russian Linguistics*) and "Perfectivizing Prefixation in Late Common Slavic"



(*Linguistica Brunensia*), as well as a chapter on verbal aspect in the *Cambridge Handbook of Slavic Linguistics* and a book chapter, "An Epistemic Approach to Aspectual Systems: English, Russian, and Beyond", co-authored with Astrid De Wit of the University of Antwerp, in *Beyond Aspectual Semantics: Explorations in the Pragmatic and Cognitive Realms of Aspect* (OUP). He was an invited speaker at the 19th Conference of the Slavic Linguistics Society. He continued work as associated editor of *Brill's Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics Online*.

Prof. **Marc L. Greenberg** has been finalizing his editorship of the [*Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics*](#) (Brill Publishers), with the online edition soon to be completed and the print edition going into production in 2025. He has also recently contributed an entry to the reference work on "[Fixed-Stress Systems](#)," such as those found in Czech, Macedonian, Polish, and Slovak. He has also co-authored a paper "Planet of the APCs" with KU colleagues Josh Bolick, Ada Emmett, A. Townsend Peterson, and Brian Rosenblum for a special issue of the [*Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*](#) marking the tenth anniversary of the article co-written and organized (with multiple international contributors) by Emmett, Greenberg, and Peterson "[Bottlenecks in the Open-Access System: Voices from Around the Globe](#)" (2014). The 2014 article has been translated into several languages and is often cited as a "snapshot" of the global open-access landscape in the early years of open access. Prof. Greenberg co-organized a symposium at the Slavic-Eurasian Research Center at Hokkaido University, together with Prof. Motoki Nomachi (conference host) and Prof. Mate Kapović, held in December 2024: "[Languages, Nations and Standardization in Slavia: So Similar and Yet So Different](#)." His paper at the symposium was on "The Emergence of Distinction: Style as a Factor in (Slavic)



Language Change.” He wrote an [obituary](#) of his mentor, Emeritus Professor Willem R. Vermeer (U of Amsterdam) for *Slovenski jezik / Slovene Linguistic Studies*. In summer 2024 he served as a jury member for research stipends awarded by the Stanislav Škrabec Foundation in Slovenia.



Prof. Janzen completed her second full year of directing the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies (please see news about the Center in this issue’s newsletter). Major accomplishments include successful fundraising for renovations of the Sudler house and overseeing the digitization of [the New York Turn Verein archives](#),

one of the Center’s most significant collections.

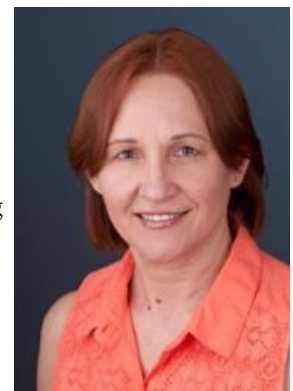
In 2024, Prof. Janzen continued work on her current project, titled *Freedom, Refugeedom, and Citizenship in Berlin’s Literary Sphere*. This book in progress examines how the so-called “refugee crisis” of 2015 impacted Germany’s subsidized literary sphere, historically justified in the name of forming educated and worldly-wise citizens. She presented a paper from this project at the German Studies Association conference in Atlanta, Georgia, titled “Exile as Trope and Experience in Germany’s Cultural Sphere.” In Fall 2024, Prof. Janzen also received a CARES Award from KU’s College of Liberal Arts and Science. The award will provide a teaching release in Fall 2025 to allow time to write the manuscript.

In November 2024, **Svetlana Vassileva-Karagyozyova** gave a talk titled “Depression and Intergenerational Trauma” in Olga Tokaczuk’s short story “Marek Marek” at the international conference *Polish Literature and Psychoanalysis* organized by



the Department of Slavic Studies at Sofia University, Bulgaria. Later that month she presented “Gendered Bodies, Objects, and the City in Olga Tokarczuk’s short story “Sabina’s Wish” and Feliks Falk’s film “The Debt Collector” as part of the panel “Reclaiming Urban Space: Fighting Unequal Representation and Spatial Marginalization in Urban Narratives” at the ASEES National Convention in Boston, MA. She published the chapter “The Rehabilitation of Vulnerability in Yana Borissova’s Works,” In *Полемии и избори. Сборник с доклади от конференция Петнадесети славистични четения*, eds. Elena Daradanova at al., 527-535. [Polemics and Choices. Proceedings of the Fifteenth International Slavic Studies Conference, vol. 2, Sofia: Sofia University Press, 2024]. Her chapter, “*Reinventing the Polish City of Walbrzych through Film*,” is set to be published in the forthcoming edited volume *Narrating Contested Urban Space: Historical and Contemporary Urban Challenges for Central European Cities* (Lexington Books) in early 2025. Prof. Vassileva-Karagyozyova was awarded a GRF grant from CLAS to advance her book manuscript, *Reinventing the Polish Post-Industrial City through Literature, Theater, and Film: The Case of Walbrzych*. Additionally, she received a non-language teaching grant from CREES to design and develop her online course, *Bodies in Pain in Contemporary Central and Eastern European Literature*, which she successfully taught for the first time in Fall 2024.

Prof. Vyatkina continued her research in instructed second language acquisition and corpus-based language teaching and learning. She published an article in the peer-reviewed journal [Unterrichtspraxis / Teaching German](#) that



evaluated the effectiveness of three iterations of an online advanced German language course that she taught to KU students. This study showed that the students significantly improved their German

proficiency as a result of the course. Prof. Vyatkina's editorial work included co-editing a section on data-driven and corpus-based language learning for [*The Palgrave encyclopedia of computer-assisted language learning*](#) that will include more than 60 entries. Prof. Vyatkina also presented one single-authored and one co-authored paper at the 16th *Teaching and Language Corpora Conference* in Manchester, United Kingdom.



In 2024, **Oleksandra Wallo** presented on topics connected to the teaching of Ukrainian as a foreign language at four conferences, including AATSEEL, the virtual ASEEES, the Indiana University Ukrainian Studies Taras Shevchenko Conference, and the international conference at the

Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, titled "Cultural Resistance: Ukrainian Studies in Conditions of War." In the summer, she was also invited to and attended the conference "The U.S.-Ukraine Partnership in Education: Stronger Together" at the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., where Ukraine's First Lady Olena Zelenska gave the keynote address. Along with dozens of other U.S.-based Ukrainian Studies scholars, Dr. Wallo was recognized at this conference for promoting the study of Ukraine in the United States. In the fall, she was also an invited speaker at a roundtable at Columbia University about Yuri Shevchuk's *Ukrainian-English Collocation Dictionary*.

In May and June of 2024, Dr. Wallo took a research and family trip to Ukraine, where she attended several important theatrical performances in Lviv and Rivne, and finished an article on one of these plays. The article, titled "The Colonial Encounter in Natalka Vorozhbyt's *The Grain Store* (2009)," has since been accepted for publication in one of the upcoming issues of *Ukraina Moderna*.

Thanks to a language course development grant from CREES, Dr. Wallo developed a synchronous online version of her Intermediate Ukrainian course (UKRA 204) and taught it in Fall 2024 to a class of outstanding students, who joined in via Zoom from different parts of the United States. One of these students helped connect the SGES Department to Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Sergiy Kyslytsia, who made a formal visit to KU in the fall. Please see a separate piece about this visit and other Ukrainian outreach events organized by SGES earlier in this newsletter.

Dr. Ihor Lylo, Ukrainian scholar and visiting assistant professor in the departments of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies and History since January of 2024, was named a finalist for the 2024 H.O.P.E. Award!



The H.O.P.E. (Honor for the Outstanding Progressive Educator) Award was established by the KU class of 1959 to recognize the recipients' outstanding teaching and concern for students. It is the only KU award for teaching excellence bestowed exclusively by students and is led by the Board of Class Officers. The winner is selected by the senior class members and the award is presented in the fall semester of the senior class year.

Dr. Wallo and colleagues received certificates of recognition from Ukraine's Ministry of Education for popularizing Ukrainian Studies in the United States.



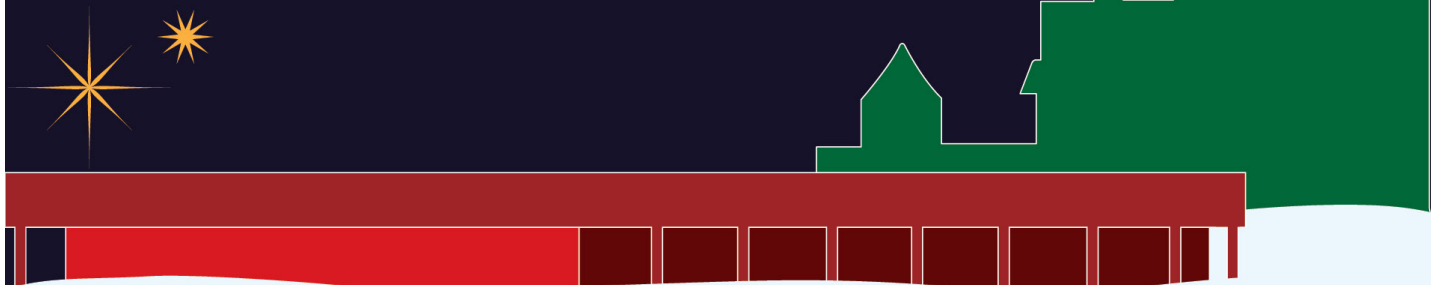
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If you are so inclined and able, please consider donating to the department or the Center. Donor funds greatly enable the support we give students, faculty research, outreach and events, and so much more. Your donations help us provide scholarships and conference funding for both our undergraduate and graduate students. They are vital for covering various expenses related to bringing in guest speakers and hosting events that benefit not only our students but the KU community as a whole, such as Ambassador Serhiy Kyslytsya or our Herbstfest open house. The work that is done at the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies relies completely on donor gifted funds, ranging from hiring student workers and interns, maintaining the Sudler house and annex, preserving our collections, and hosting events. Visit sges.ku.edu/give or use the QR code to learn about our major funds and how to donate to the department and Center.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

SLAVIC, GERMAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES



As the year draws to a close, we celebrate the beauty of diverse traditions and cultures. From our department to you, may your holiday season be filled with peace, joy, and a spirit of discovery. Warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season and a bright New Year!



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